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Thursday, April 10 - Wednesday, April 16, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

COPS TARGET IMPROVEMENT

POLICE chiefs in Oxford vow to continue their crackdown on crime, despite recent figures showing the city's lowest levels for 15 years.

Overall crime in the city decreased by three per cent between April 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014, in comparison to the previous year.

In total, 15,118 offences were recorded, 545 less crimes than the 2012/13 figure.

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We are very happy with it but we will always seek more," said Ch Insp Yvette Hitch, Deputy LPA Commander for Oxford.

"That is why we are here. The more we can achieve, the better. We are working in times of austerity but we are working with partner agencies and sharing that burden.

"The fact that we have achieved reductions is a testament to that partnership work."

Burglary is down by 24 per cent, in line with Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld's crime plan objective.

Ch Insp Hitch added: "Burglary has always been a priority.

"It is one of the most hideous crimes going. It (The PCC's crime plan) certainly focuses the attention of the force."

She continued: "Burglars tend to be known to us.

"We know who they are and actively manage them."

However, sexual offences in Oxford have increased by 35 per cent, with rape going up by 25 per cent and non-rape sexual offences by 40 per cent.

Ch Insp Hitch says the increase is down to victims having the confidence to report incidents to the police.

"Clearly we had Bullfinch," she said.

"We have concerns around child exploitation in the city and we are currently working on it.

"There has been a cultural change and people are now more willing to speak to us.

"People are more likely to report crime than before and I think that is a confidence in the police. There is a general perception that people are happy with the police and if they do report it we will effectively investigate it."

Other stats show that business robberies have increased by 38 per cent, vehicle crime has gone up by three per cent while crimes against society, such as drug offences, is down by eight per cent.

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Ketamine may help treat depression

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

ACCORDING to researchers in Oxford, ketamine is a "promising" new treatment for depression.

In the first UK study of the use of the class B drug, patients with severe depression, who have not responded to other treatments, have had symptoms disappear after taking a low dose of the drug.

Although many patients relapsed within a day, 29 per cent benefited for at least three weeks while 15 per cent took over two months to relapse.

The study was carried out in an NHS clinic by researchers at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Oxford University.

Principal investigator Dr Rupert McShane said: "Ketamine is a promising new antidepressant which works in a different way to existing antidepressants.

"We wanted to see whether it would be safe if given repeatedly, and whether it would be practical in an NHS setting.

"We especially wanted to check that repeated infusions didn't cause cognitive problems."

Researchers say the drug did not cause any cognitive or bladder side effects but some patients did suffer anxiety and sickness.

Over 400 infusions have been given to 45 patients, with all findings published in the Journal of Psychopharmacology.

Dr McShane added: "We've seen remarkable changes in people who've had severe depression for many years that no other treatment has touched. It's very moving to witness.

"Patients often comment that that the flow of their thinking seems suddenly freer.

"For some, even a brief experience of response helps them to realise that they can get better and this gives hope."

'Justice has been served' after burglar jailed

AN OXFORD man was jailed for three years and eight months last week for a burglary and car theft in the city that took place last July.

Justin Bourton, 35, of Dashwood Road, pleaded guilty to the charges, which relate to a house he burgled on Courtland Road, where he also stole a BMW from outside the property.

He was sentenced to 44 months in prison for the burglary and 12 months for the theft of the BMW to run concurrently with each other.

Following his guilty plea, Bourton admitted a further nine offences relating to three dwelling burglaries, five non-dwelling burglaries and one count of criminal damage.

Investigating officer PC George Atkinson said: "These offences formed part of a crime series in the Rose Hill and Iffley area of Oxford in the summer of 2013 and the sentence will now protect the public from his offending.

"In terms of the prison sentence, justice has been served and the victims can now move on with their lives.

"It has been a lengthy investigation which started with us sharing the initial crime report and some pictures from the crime scene in our 24-hour burglary tweetathon last July."

• *Justin Bourton*

News Bites

Husky trekking

THE manager of an Oxford Care Home is set to embark on an Arctic husky trek for charity.

Melody Vettraino, of Albany Care Home, begins her challenge this Saturday and is raising money and awareness for the Alzheimer's Society along the way.

Her challenge will involve sledding 250km from Norway to Sweden.

Audi in Cowley

WORK on the new home of Oxford Audi has begun in Cowley.

Set to be completed in time for the summer, Audi are relocating from Kidlington to Oxford Business Park.

The two story building will sit opposite the David Lloyd Racket and Healthcare centre.

Appeal for teams

A CHARITY football tournament that raises funds for the Children's Hospital is looking for more teams to enter this summer's event.

Play2Give, which raised just under £5,000 at last year's tournament, would like more under 9 boys teams to take part this year.

The tournament takes place on July 13 at Oxford City FC and is also open to under 10s.

Any teams in the under 9 and under 10 age brackets that wish to enter or want to find out more about the tournament should contact Andrew Baker via play2give@hotmail.com.

Jane's epic journey to fundraise for Playhouse

AN OXFORD Playhouse employee is set to walk 1,187 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for the theatre's work with communities and children.

Jane Hornsby aims to raise £20,000 from the trek, which she is scheduled to begin on May 3.

She will walk solo for two months without taking a day off and is travelling through the British countryside the entire way, avoiding passing through any major towns or cities.

"I rather like walking but this is something else, and preparing for it has been anything but peaceful!" said Jane.

"Sorting out the route, the accommodation, thinking about food, carrying enough water, boots falling to bits – the list of things to consider is endless.

"So why would I want to do it? I see the benefits drama brings to people, be it through laughter, tears or just a very good story.

"Oxford Playhouse takes theatre out to audiences with its Playhouse Plays Out tent, which is a wonderful initiative but it needs to be paid for and that's why I am doing the walk."

Jane hopes to finish her journey on July 3. To sponsor her, go to https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/oxfordplayhousejaneswalk.

• *Jane Hornsby hopes to raise £20,000 by walking the length of Great Britain*

Oxford cruise to victory over rivals Cambridge

A CONTROVERSIAL 2014 BNY Mellon Boat Race ended in a clear victory for Oxford, as they beat Cambridge by 32 seconds last Sunday.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

But the race will be remembered for a clash between the crews just over five minutes into the race, as the oars of Oxford's Sam O'Connor and Cambridge's Luke Juckett connected.

Juckett was unseated as a result of the clash, and the momentum that Cambridge lost through the incident put them too far back to challenge for the remainder of the event.

Light Blues cox Ian Middleton made a protest at the end of the race, but was told by stewards that it was Cambridge who were out of position, and therefore deemed to be at fault.

Stewards ruled that while Oxford had been warned about getting too close to Cambridge, they had moved over but Cambridge had moved with them.

Oxford president Malcolm Howard said about the clash: "I don't think it affected the outcome. We were moving really well, we'd withstood their big push early on and had started to take seats.

"We were moving on them and would have kept moving."

Coach Sean Bowden added: "We can look back on this year with a lot of pride. I felt this year we could achieve really high standards.

"The clash is one of those things that can happen. Cambridge put a lot of pressure on early on but we were moving away.

"Steering is always competitive and this is one of the things that can happen when you take risks."

Sunday's result means that Oxford are now just three wins behind Cambridge in the all-time standings, with the scores at 81-78.

Earlier that day, Oxford's reserve crew Isis were also victorious, finishing 37 seconds ahead of Goldie in the 50th running of their race.

The next Boat Race is scheduled to take place on April 11, 2015.

• *The Oxford crew celebrate last Sunday's win over Cambridge (Picture by Getty Images)*

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Council react to residents' parking fears

SIXTEEN more parking spaces have been created in Oxford as part of the city council's ongoing Great Estates project, this time at two separate sites in Wood Farm.

The spaces have been completed at Chillingworth Crescent at a cost of £135,000, with work having taken five weeks to complete.

Work on the sites have involved excavation of the existing verges, as well as the construction of block paved parking bays.

Cllr Scott Seamons, board member for housing, says the council reacted in light of public concerns about limited spaces.

"Parking on Chillingworth Crescent has been a problem for a long time," he said.

"Through the Great Estates programme, we have eased the parking pressure in the area by creating these much-needed new spaces.

"This recent work is just one more example of where our residents have voiced their concerns and we have addressed them."

Cllr Mark Lygo, ward member for Churchill, added: "The additional parking is a welcome investment.

"There was congestion in the area and measures which improve this is good for everyone."

Further parking schemes are being considered across the city, including in Blackbird Leys, Masons Road in Wood Farm, Croft Road in Marston and on the Barton estate.

Progress made on Leys pool revamp

OXFORD City Council say Blackbird Leys' new pool is on track to be completed at the end of the year.

The project, said to cost a total of £9.23million, is making good progress and residents can now see the steel frame of the building above the hoardings around the site.

A new group exercise studio and meeting room has already opened.

In addition, new rooms to house the crèche and a brand new soft play area have also been completed.

Building work on a new sports pavilion adjoining the centre is also underway.

Cllr Mike Rowley, board member for Leisure Services, said: "I am delighted to see the steel frames being fitted.

"We have completed stage one of the redevelopment of the leisure centre and I look forward to the next stage being completed.

"Many thanks to users and residents for bearing with us while the work is being done."

David Hunt, general manager of the Centre, added that he was "thrilled to see the new centre taking shape".

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'What do we want in 2020?'

COUNTY council leader Ian Hudspeth has announced his visions for the future, with a monorail around the city among them.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

He outlined his ambitions at the 'Connecting Oxfordshire' launch last week, which looked beyond the already planned £800m of transport investment by 2031.

Cllr Hudspeth looked to another wave of innovation and investment.

The pedestrianisation of George Street, turning St Giles into a boulevard, as well as connecting key sites, such as London Oxford Airport and MINI Plant Oxford with the city were just a few ideas.

Planned transport improvements, that should already be in place by 2020, are the upgrading of Oxford and Didcot Parkway train stations, electrification of the main Oxfordshire rail network, improving the Milton Interchange and link roads to Science Vale.

Making The Plain roundabout, Oxford, safer for cyclists, improving Frideswide Square and a new Bicester Park and Ride are also on the list.

Cllr Hudspeth says, with 80,000 new jobs and 106,000 homes predicted by 2031, a debate on Oxfordshire's future is worth having.

"If we don't start having this debate we will never actually get anywhere," he said.

"What I really want to have is this vision for the future.

"What do we want in 2020?

"Do we want to remain as we are or do we look forward, realising the growth potential of Oxfordshire?

"Remaining as we are, it's not really an option, as far as I'm concerned, so we need to have a debate."

Cllr Hudspeth added: "There are exciting times ahead.

"Towns across Oxfordshire are going to increase in size, with places such as Bicester set to double in size over the next 10 years.

"We are also seeing the technology and knowledge industry Science Vale Oxford really take off and the county council needs to lead the way in developing the supporting infrastructure.

"We can't rule out ideas that might seem fanciful, such as creating a passenger service on the Cowley branch line, a mass transit system into Oxford."

However, Hugh Jaeger, spokesman for the Thames Valley branch of Railfuture and the Oxford branch of Bus Users UK, believes these visions should have been integrated earlier and alongside the planned housing.

"Cllr Hudspeth's vision seems to have distinct periods in it," said Mr Jaeger.

"Period one is big development and period two is transit, but it is less certain.

"It is the cart before the horse."

• (Above) How the link road around the city and (below) London Oxford Airport could look (Pictures courtesy of Oxfordshire County Council)

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News Bites

Hinksey pool to open in May

HINKSEY'S heated outdoor pool is set to reopen next month.

It will open at 7am on May 2 and to celebrate the start of the summer season the pool will host an Open Day on May 3.

Swimmers with an Oxford Bus Company ticket will be allowed free entry to the pool. After 2pm, it will be free entry for everyone.

Table tennis set for city return

OXFORD has been chosen, for the second time, as the host city for a festival of free table tennis.

Ping! attracted around 21,000 people of all ages to Oxford last year and now the city council has been awarded funding to build on 2013.

The council is now looking for potential venues to register their interest in hosting a table between mid-July and September.

For more details contact Vicki Galvin on 01865 252720.

Home comforts

BRAND new seats, paid for by the community, have been installed at The Ultimate Picture Palace on Cowley Road.

The cinema ran a "Some Like it Soft" campaign last year, helping to raise £9,431 towards the total cost of £30,000.

Closing for a week from tomorrow to install the seats, the cinema will reopen on April 18.

Exiles sign deal to remain in Oxford

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *The Kassam Stadium will be London Welsh's home for three more years and (inset) Bleddyn Phillips*

LONDON Welsh will continue to groundshare with Oxford United at the Kassam Stadium after the rugby club signed a new contract last week.

The Exiles have agreed a new three-year deal and say the news confirms its commitment to play top flight professional rugby in Oxfordshire.

Back in February, chairman Bleddyn Phillips said moving to the Witney Community Stadium was one of "a number of options" after the club received planning permission for the site.

However, last Friday's announcement confirms the move will not go ahead.

As the Exiles bid for promotion back to the Aviva Premiership, Mr Phillips is delighted the deal has been agreed.

"The Kassam Stadium is an excellent facility with a great pitch and very popular with the club's players," he said.

"We are delighted to be in a position to be able to confirm the club's commitment to Oxfordshire with the signing of this agreement.

"With the team having secured its place in the Championship semi-finals these are exciting times for both the club, and for Oxfordshire generally, in the realm of rugby.

"The club is committed to establishing itself as a Premiership club and this is a very important step in that direction."

Speaking to the Oxford Journal back in February, Mr Phillips said attendances throughout this year's Greene King IPA Championship campaign had been "disappointing".

Mr Phillips added: "We are looking forward to building up and deepening local support in Oxfordshire to help us achieve and continue to play top class rugby in the county."

Meanwhile, the Exiles will continue to "work and train" at Old Deer Park.

Michael Doyle, general manager of The Kassam Stadium, said: "This is very exciting for the people of Oxfordshire.

"To have both top-flight professional football and rugby playing week-in week-out is great news, and we are delighted that London Welsh has chosen The Kassam to be its home."

Council unveil new fitness trail in Cowley

A FITNESS trail and sports pavilion in Cowley Marsh Park was officially opened last weekend.

Residents and park users were invited to have a look round the pavilion and try out the new fitness trail.

The new trail and pavilion has seen Oxford City Council spend around £160,000 on the improvements.

The pavilion has been reconfigured to meet child protection guidance, and has benefited from a new electrical system, showers and windows.

Cllr Mark Lygo, board member for parks, sport and events, opened the new facilities last Saturday.

He said: "The work we have made to this popular park shows our commitment to improving the standard of sporting provision across the city.

"The pavilion is now able to cater for four football teams of all ages, and will also be available to hire for parties and community events."

Cllr Lygo added: "The fitness trail has multiple exercise stations located at intervals through the park, so that you can run on grass or paths from station to station to exercise.

"Each station has signs showing you how to use the equipment.

"The distance markers along the route will help you measure your run."

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Safety 'key priority' for May Morning celebration

• *Revelers enjoy last year's May Morning celebrations (Picture by James Booker)*

MAGDALEN Bridge will be open to the public for this year's May Morning celebrations, but revelers have been reminded that their safety is the key priority.

With the support of Thames Valley Police, Oxford City Council has chosen to open the bridge for a fourth year in a row.

The bridge was closed on May Day morning between 2005 and 2011 after 40 people were injured jumping into the river 10 years ago.

It will be open to pedestrians and closed to traffic from 3am-9am, enabling everyone to enjoy the celebrations.

Cllr Bob Price, leader of Oxford City Council, said: "We have opened up the city for the last couple of years and people have respected this decision.

"I hope that you can all continue to enjoy May Morning in the safe and enjoyable environment that we have provided.

"It is always dangerous to enter the river, regardless of the water levels, and you are often unaware of the currents, the river levels or what lies on the river bed."

Supt Christian Bunt, Oxford LPA Commander, added: "Thames Valley Police will continue to work closely with our partners to ensure that public attending this year's May Morning celebrations are in a safe environment to do so.

"This is the fourth year the decision has been taken by the council to open Magdalen Bridge to the public for May Morning celebrations and this will again happen this year with our support.

"We would like as many people as possible to enjoy the May Morning celebrations safely, and will be doing all we can to ensure minimal disruption to local residents in the area."

Aubrey Bell, South Central Ambulance Service's area manager for Oxfordshire, said safety is "paramount".

He continued: "We would encourage people attending events throughout the day to drink responsibly so that ambulance resources remain available to respond to patients who genuinely need them."

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Blooming marvellous! Council hopes to see plants and flowers across the city

GREEN-FINGERED residents in the city are being invited to take part in this year's Oxford in Bloom competition, with prizes of up to £100 on offer.

It is free to enter and open to anyone who lives or works in the city, with gardens, balconies or planters eligible for submission.

Categories include best kept gardens, beautiful containers, balconies or commercial, and community displays, as well as junior Oxford in Bloom and gardening for the disabled.

Cllr Mark Lygo, board member for parks, sports and events, said: "This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved, watch our communities spring into flower and provide a colourful backdrop to our everyday lives."

Karen Roberts, chair of the Oxford in Bloom committee, added: "The competition has been going for many years and is an important part of Oxford life for the many residents that enter year after year.

"I hope that this year we will have the support of the regular entrants and that new residents will feel inspired to enter as well."

The closing date for entries from schools and nurseries is June 29, with a date of July 6 for all other categories. Go to www.oxford.gov.uk/oxfordinbloom to apply.

News Bites

Rail disruption

TRAIN passengers in Oxford are being urged to check journey times and routes prior to departure, due to engineering works taking place over the Easter weekend.

A revised timetable will be operating between April 18 and 21, with services between Oxford and London Paddington seeing two fast trains an hour, reduced to one on the Sunday.

James Adeshiyan of First Great Western said: "These are vital infrastructure works to achieve greater capacity and flexibility for future Crossrail and Great Western services.

"We have worked closely with our colleagues at Network Rail to keep disruption to a minimum."

Crossrail is the new £16billion railway being developed in the south, which will see the enhancement of rail tracks and 13 stations.

Mayor's meal

OVER £3,000 was raised at the Lord Mayor of Oxford's charity civic dinner on March 28.

Cllr Dee Sinclair's evening raised money for her two chosen charities, Maggie's Oxford and Crisis Skylight Oxford.

"It was a fantastic evening and I am delighted with the amount we raised for my two chosen charities," she said.

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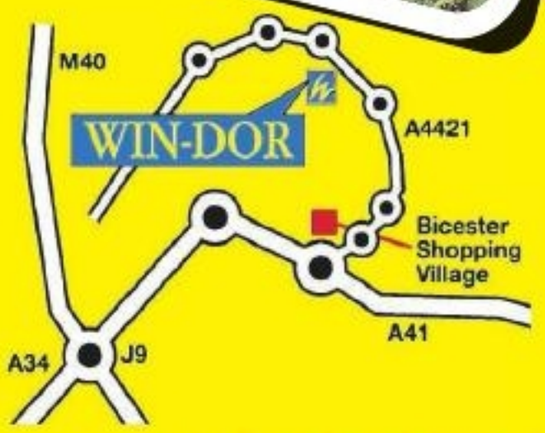

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• *Russell Watson comes to the New Theatre on Sunday. See overleaf for details*

Russelling up a treat!

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Achieving the dream

OPERATIC and pop singer Russell Watson comes to Oxford's New Theatre this weekend, following on from the release of his latest album 'Only One Man'.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Known as the 'English Tenor', Russell will be performing a range of songs from his extensive career, crafted for him by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil of Les Misérables fame.

The new album was released last November, following on from the seven million records Russell has sold in his illustrious career.

"I've been dreaming of making a record like this for 13 years," he said. "These songs mark my birth as a creative artist, and I'm baring my soul through the music.

"My manager Philippe plans to spin this out all over the world. I've had success in Japan already and there's huge potential across China and the rest of Asia.

"Claude-Michel even has penned several new songs specifically for the live show.

"One song he wants to write is almost like a dream. It's a singer when he's 80-years-old reflecting back on the songs he used to sing – his body of work, the songs which made him famous."

Regine Velasquez, one of the most popular singers in Asia, joined Russell in a duet on the new album.

"She's from the Philippines and she's the number one diva of that part of the world," added Russell.

"She's like the Asian Celine Dion, and she's up for Female Artist of the Year at the World Music Awards.

"It's a love balled called 'Live With Somebody You Love', it's beautifully constructed and crafted. The two voices blend really well, and she had a Streisand-esque quality."

The show takes place on Sunday at 7pm. For more information, call 0844 871 3020 or go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk.

Jazz and swing

OXFORD'S own Susanne Hodgson leads a quartet of renowned musicians for an evening of jazz, swing and haunting ballads at the Old Fire Station on Saturday.

Susanne is joined by Malcolm Edmonstone on piano, drummer Dave Ohm and Mark Hodgson on bass for Saturday's show.

Doors open at 7.30pm, and more details can be found at www.oldfirestation.org.uk.

Matt Cardle

FORMER X-Factor winner Matt Cardle comes to Oxford's O2 Academy on Sunday, following the release of his debut album 'Porcelain' last autumn.

Matt has two million record sales under his belt already, and 'Porcelain' is his first album to be released internationally and with major label backing.

For more details, go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk.

Paying tribute

TURN Back The Clock, a tribute show to comedienne and entertainer Joyce Grenfell, is at the Chipping Norton Theatre on Sunday.

The show starts at 7.45pm, and tickets can be booked at www.chippingnortontheatre.co.uk.

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Standard Class	£85	£43	Didcot Parkway	06:15	22:15
First Class Plus	£135	£105	Oxford	06:30	22:00
Premier Dining	£209	£179	Banbury	07:00	21:30

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Premier Dining	£199	£169	Swindon	08:20	21:30

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Road trippin'

CHRIS Dobrowolski's thought-provoking show All Roads Lead to Rome is at the Burton Taylor Studio this evening, as he speaks about a quintessentially English road trip.

He investigates the family history and consumerism that brings together a road trip, and how he restored his family's Triumph Herald Estate to drive from Braintree to Rome.

Go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com for more information.

Lee Evans

ONE of the biggest names in comedy, Lee Evans, comes to Didcot's Cornerstone tomorrow night as he prepares for his forthcoming 'Monsters' arena tour.

Lee will be trying out new material for a 'Work in Progress' show, before his full tour takes him to venues across the country.

The show starts at 8pm.

Queen tribute

GA GA bring their Ultimate Tribute to Queen show to Banbury's Mill Arts Centre on Saturday, featuring the renowned and popular music of the legendary group.

The group will perform classic songs including 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'We Will Rock You'.

The show starts at 8pm.

Ready for Deaf Havana?

ALTERNATIVE rock band Deaf Havana come to Oxford's O2 Academy on Sunday, following on from the release of their latest album 'Old Souls' last year.

The band are touring the UK throughout April, and return to Oxford having made previous visits to the O2 and the former Regal nightclub.

And it comes after the band released their new single 'Mildred' in February, the first song that saw brothers James and Matt Veck-Gilodi share vocal duties.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We've had a pretty good reaction to the album," said James. "It's a bit of a diversion from what we were doing before.

"A couple of people didn't like it but it's been mainly great responses, and better than I expected to be honest.

"It's a bit more like classic rock, more like Springsteen for instance, and a bit more older-sounding than the previous stuff.

"I enjoy changing each album really, I get bored quite easily!"

Prior to this tour, Deaf Havana had been supporting acts including Bruce Springsteen and Muse, something that James said he enjoyed, but was happy to be back headlining again.

He added: "It's nice to be playing headline shows again, having done loads of support recently.

"I didn't think headlining was what I preferred, but having played the last few shows, it is really nice to be playing to our crowd again.

"We get to play more material, and it just reminded me why I was in the band. We've been touring so much and we're pretty run down, but these shows have really picked us up again."

Deaf Havana are accompanied by The Maine and The People The Poet for Sunday's show, with doors open at 7pm.

• ***Deaf Havana return to Oxford this weekend***

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3 Apr - 4 Apr
5 Apr - 21 Apr, 10am - 5:30pm
WATERPERRY GARDENS, NEAR WHEATLEY
Easter Bunny Hunt
Join the Big Easter Bunny Hunt to find our bunnies hidden around the ornamental gardens. Find 8 of the 10 bunnies and claim you special Easter prize from the Teashop, Miss H's. It costs £2 per child and children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk 01844 339226

11 Apr, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
TALK: THE ROMAN ARMY FACT AND FICTION
"by Dr John Smith an archaeologist who has studied the Roman Army for over 20 years and excavated and worked at Rockbourne and Bignor Roman Villas. This is a living history presentation, reviewing the historical and archaeological evidence for the Roman Army, in the Empire and South-West England. John will present Roman equipment and artefacts (some from the Camerton Hoard) and discuss their practicality, construction and uses, and debunk some popular and media portrayals of the Roman Army.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome."

13 Apr, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - JOHN MANN
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

15 Apr - 16 Apr
Oxford Playhouse
THE RITE OF SPRING & PETRUSHKA
Choreographed by the renowned Michael Keegan-Dolan and performed by an international cast of 14, both pieces are theatrical interpretations created in response to the music that caused outrage and excitement in the early twentieth century.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

16 Apr
Art Bar, Oxford
PAUL THOMAS SAUNDERS

16 Apr, 8pm
Zelda's Jazz Room at the Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage
THE JOHN CROCKER / JIM DOUGLAS EXPERIENCE
"John Crocker was the clarinettist with Chris Barber for some 30 years. He is a superb and dynamic player whether on clarinet or tenor sax. He has got together with Jim Douglas who played guitar and banjo with the Alex Welsh band for nearly 20 years. This unusual ""font line"" has proved to be very entertaining and will appear with a rhythm team of Tim Huskisson, piano, Dave Moorwood, guitar and Andy Lawrence, bass.

Tickets £10 on the door."
01235 765648 or email dave@dave-moorwood.co.uk

18 Apr - 19 Apr
Oxford Playhouse
FLOWN
Performed by Pirates of the Carabina, a 10 strong company of highly-skilled international circus artists. Prepare for brilliantly choreographed chaos in this big, beautiful and bonkers show.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

19 Apr - 20 Apr
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
FRITILLARY WEEKEND
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22 Apr, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford
MATILDA & ME
Ria Hartley's colourful and touching production weaves together story-telling, autobiography, dubpoetry, live art and reggae music, as she reflects on her grandmother's life.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

22 Apr - 26 Apr
Oxford Playhouse
THIS MAY HURT A BIT
Theatre company Out of Joint returns with biting political comedy. Starring Stephanie Cole, this new play explores one family's journey through the digestive system of the NHS.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

23 Apr, 7:30pm
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
"This is the last chance to see acclaimed band Casa Margarita as they come the end of their Oxfordshire tour: Don't miss their brilliant story concert, bringing you tales and music from an unusual old house in Seville.
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01865244993, http://www.casa-margarita.co.uk/
Fabulous percussion, strings and virtuoso castanets. With stunning mezzo-soprano Margarita. Come and feast your senses! This is a night that will delight your ears and your imagination...and it will touch your heart."
01865244993, http://www.casa-margarita.co.uk/

23 Apr - 24 Apr, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford
WILDE WITHOUT THE BOY
Gerard Logan (The Rape of Lucrece) performs a dramatisation of De Profundis, Oscar Wilde's letter to his lover, written from his prison cell.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

23 Apr, 8:30pm
The Lamb Inn, Mill Street, Wantage
DAVE MOORWOOD'S RASCALS OF RHYTHM
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24 Apr, 7:30pm
The Art Bar, Oxford
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Roddy will be joined in Oxford by Jen Ord. A lifelong musician with a rich heritage in traditional English music, Jen has built a personal style that has only grown in clarity and potency throughout the years."

25 Apr, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
WE WILL BE FREE!
"A new play about the true story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. George and Betsy Loveless were part of the group of Dorset farm labourers who were transported for forming a Trade Union in 1834 to fight against wage cuts inflicted by the local landowner. Their story is told using political cartoon, puppetry, and the musical arrangements of folk singer John Kirkpatrick.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 Apr, 7:30pm
Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford
ANTHROPOETRY
Ben Mellor takes you on a stand up poetry and live music fuelled tour around the body, getting to the measure of modern life through anatomical analogy. Anthropoetry is presented with Ben's trademark mix of poetry, rap, beatbox and humour.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

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25 Apr, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf & Country Club
LIVE JAZZ: JULIE EDWARDS & KEVIN DEARDEN
"Julie Edwards (vocals), Kevin Dearden (guitar) Ed Kainyek (saxes), Dave Turner (bass) Tim Franks (drums)
£12"
www.oxfordlivejazz.com 01367 718903

26 Apr
Wallingford
WALLINGFORD HISTORY WALKS
around the Castle earthworks in the morning, followed by a Town history walk in the afternoon.
www.twhas.org.uk

26 Apr, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 Blood Red Stars
21.30 Montmartre
22.15 Balloon Ascents
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/259647"

26 Apr, 5:55pm
Various local cinemas
THE MET: LIVE IN HD: COSÌ FAN TUTTE
http://Metopera.org/uk

26 Apr
Wallingford
HISTORIC GUIDED WALKS
"led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).
At 11am there will be a Castle history walk, followed by a Town history walk at 2.30pm. Both walks, lasting about 2 hours, start at the Museum with a charge of £5 for each walk. [unsuitable for dogs!] "
01491- 651127

26 Apr, 10am - 3pm
North Moreton Village Hall
BOOK SALE
Fiction/non-fiction from 50p. Children's books from 20p. Books of interest to collectors. Refreshments available. Free entry. To donate books call 07787750996. In aid of church & hall funds.
1235812202

26 Apr
Burton Taylor Studio, Oxford
PINOCCHIO
"11am & 2pmHiccup Theatre joins forces with acclaimed writer for children Michael Rosen to bring Carlo Collodi's classic tale Pinocchio to life in a sparkling new version."
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

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Thursday, April 10 - Wednesday, April 16, 2014

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Inside this week's issue

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WHEATLEY estates

Connells Recruitment EVENING

Tuesday 15th April 2014
Bicester, from 5.30pm

Trainee or Experienced Estate Agents, Lettings Negotiators, Trainee or Experienced Mortgage Advisors and New Homes Site Staff

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WHEATLEY estates

The Property Ombudsman

WHEATLEY
Much improved and extended family home within walking distance of the village facilities

£600,000

WHEATLEY £420,000
Three bedroomed detached bungalow on LARGE PLOT

WHEATLEY £550,000
Four bedroomed detached family home on a good sized plot

OAKLEY £ call for details
Two bedroomed semi-detached bungalow backing onto open fields

WHEATLEY £370,000
Extended and much improved three bedroomed detached bungalow

WHEATLEY £195,000
Two bedroomed first floor apartment GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

GREAT HASELEY £290,000
Well presented three bedroomed semi-detached house - MUST SEE

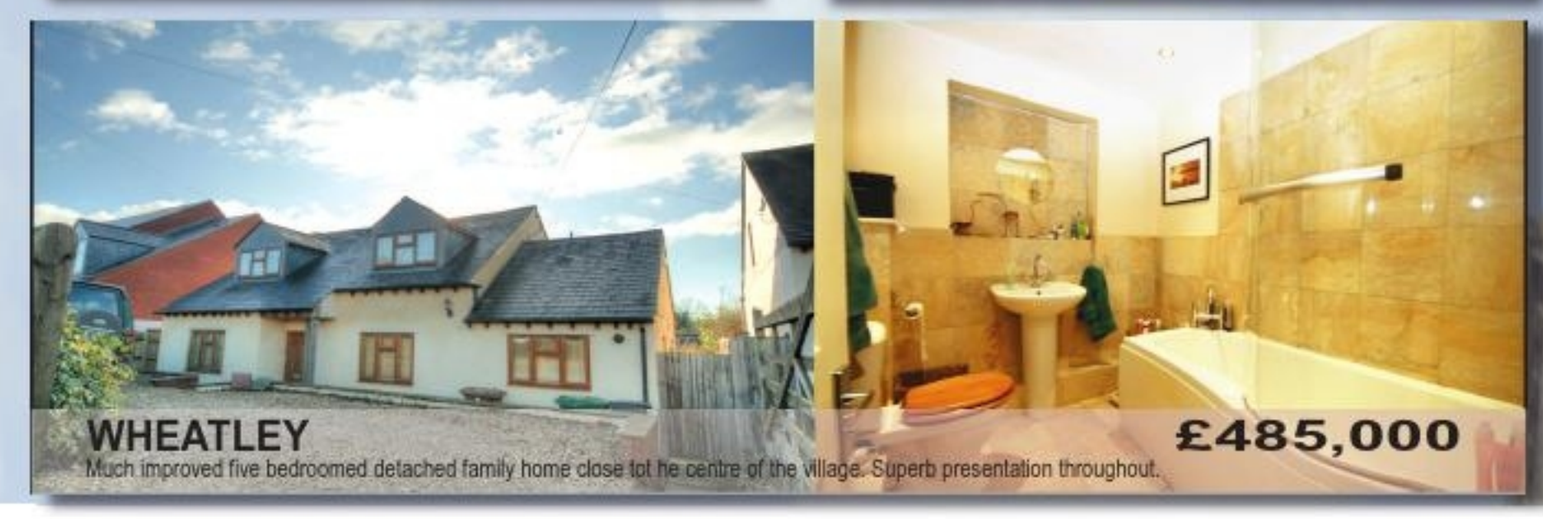
WHEATLEY £495,000
Four bedroomoed detached house on OLD ROAD

CUDDESDON £289,950
Superb opportunity to purchase a family home in this popular village

WHEATLEY £425,000
Four bedroomed cottage on High Street with garden and garage to rear

WHEATLEY £360,000
Three bedroomed detached house in the heart of the village

WHEATLEY £430,000
Four bedroomed detached family home


WHEATLEY £485,000
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connells.co.uk

Headington

Connells

Oxford £480,000

Victorian semi detached property in Central Headington, conveniently situated to local amenities, good public transport links and access to Nuffield and Churchill hospital.

Oxford £475,000

Detached family home. Spacious accomadation over two levels with room to extend (subject to planning). Located within walking distance of the Nuffield Hospital.

Oxford £450,000

The property consists of a larger than average lounge, kitchen & diner overlooking the rear garden, cloakroom, utility room, two double bedrooms, one single bedroom, loft room, bathroom, front garden with side access to garage & rear garden.

Kidlington £375,000

Detached Chalet Bungalow in historic village of Yarnton. Set back from the main street the property offers great access to local amenities while feeling detached from the general street echo and traffic. Offering good access routes to Oxford and surrounding villages.

Oxford £325,000

An extensive property offers loft conversion with en suite shower room, three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, garage conversion with en suite shower room, conservatory, covered outdoor Jacuzzi.

Oxford £300,000

Three bedroom home with access to local amenities, offering good public transport links and conveniently situated to access The Nuffield Hospital and Churchill Hospital.

Oxford £290,000

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Offering good rental potential, great links to major routes, local hospitals & the city.

Oxford £250,000

Connells Estate Agents are in receipt of an offer for the sum of £275,000 for 15 Dene Road. Anyone wishing to place an offer should contact Connells, 137a London Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9HZ or call 01865 763501 before exchange of contracts.

Oxford £210,000

Retirement property, located on the ground floor of the popular London Court development. The site offers a 24 hour emergency careline system, house manager, guest room, residents lounge, communal garden and communal laundry.

Oxford £180,000

Detached Double Unit Parkhome. Superbly located in the village of Wheatley. The property has two double bedrooms with en-suite to master, open plan lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, separate garage, off road parking and larger than average garden.

OXFORD £170,000

Well presented one double bedroom flat with lounge/diner, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and hobby room. The property would be ideal as a starter home or as an investment. Bromie place is located just outside the ring road with good access to the A/M40.

Oxford £160,000

The property is well presented & offers: lounge, diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master & family bathroom. Externally the property offers surrounding gardens with decked area & parking on a drive.

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Oxford

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Oxford £650,000

A substantial three storey terraced property located on Iffley Road offers superb potential for those looking for a central rental property. The basement is currently set up as a self contained apartment, but requires relevant consents.

Oxford £425,000

This well presented extended property is situated on a sizable corner plot offering spacious family living with the advantage of ample off street parking for several vehicles. Kennington is a village located within c.2.7 miles to Oxford.

Oxford £325,000

A rarely available LINK DETACHED family home situated on a well proportioned plot at the bottom of a cul de sac. With 3 bedrooms, 2 reception areas and 2 garages. Internal inspection is a must, so CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR VIEWING.

Oxford £325,000

A LUXURY DUPLEX apartment enjoys a delightful private position just off the historical Beauchamp Lane in Church Cowley. Offering three double bedrooms, master bedroom boast an EN-SUITE, a fabulous fitted kitchen being open plan.

Oxford £324,950

This three bedroom property is located on Magdalen Road with the large advantage of having OFF STREET PARKING and a GARAGE to the rear. The house is in need of modernisation. NO ONWARD CHAIN.

Oxford £290,000

This FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM property is offered to the market with NO ONWARD CHAIN benefiting from GARAGE and substantial FAMILY GARDEN. Internal viewing comes highly recommended.

Oxford £275,000

UPDATED end of terraced property, FITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM plus a SPACIOUS LOUNGE/DINING ROOM on the ground floor, upstairs has THREE BEDROOMS and a fitted WHITE BATHROOM SUITE. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac in Littlemore close.

Oxford £265,000

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 12th JULY - CALL CONNELLS TO BOOK. A fantastic three bedroom detached home in a cul-de-sac location on the outskirts of Cowley. Comprising kitchen, lounge/diner, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage and large driveway.

Oxford £259,995

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Oxford £240,000

Completely REFURBISHED throughout. This property is a MUST VIEW. The new kitchen has integral appliances. The lounge has SURROUND SOUND, SOLID OAK flooring throughout on the ground floor. Upstairs offers three bedrooms and a RE-FITTED bathroom suite.

Oxford £189,000

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67 Littlebury Road Oxford — £129,950

67 Little Bury, Oxford, OX4 7UZ We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £133,000. Any interested party must ubmit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.EPC Rating: C Allen &Harris, 82 Rose Hill, Oxford, OX4 4HX 01856 711441

Ashurst Way Oxford — £165,000

A great size two bedroom masonette in need of renovation, offered to the market with no onward chain. The property benefits from off road parking to the front and a garage and gated access to the rear.

Giles Road Oxford — £185,000

This Two Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette with Driveway Parking situated in Littlemore, is being sold with No Onward Chain and would make both an ideal Investment or First Time Purchase. Call the office on 01865 711441 to arrange a viewing.

Moorbank Oxford — £235,000

A good sized three bedroom semi-detached home situated in this highly sought after and popular location. Boasting Three/Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and reception room this property has great potential. For more information call 01865 711441.

Oxford Road Bletchingdon — £345000

A spacious semi-detached 1940's property situated in the picturesque village of Bletchington. Situated on a large plot overlooking open fields to the rear. Boasting generous living accommodation with open fire places, including three double bedrooms and separate dining facilities.

Sunningwell Road Oxford — £600,000

A rare oppotunity to obtain this fantastic four bedroom Victorian terraced property situated in this fantastic & highly sought after location. With a wealth of original features throughout the property is one not to be missed.

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Gidley Way
Oxford **£575,000**

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Spring Lane
Headington **£525,000**

A modern four/five bedroom detached family home situated within the Ring road in Headington. The property offers deceptively spacious accommodation internally which needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated.

Upway Road
Oxford **£400,000**

A well presented Three Bedroom with attached Annex. The property is situated with excellent access to the JR Hospital and good communication links via the Oxford Ring Road, A/M40 and local Bus Routes. The property has been improved by the present occupier and has planning for a loft conversion.

Old High Street, Headington
Oxford **£305,000**

A charming one bedroom character property located in the highly desirable Headington Quarry conservation area, this unique property is not to be missed!

Benson Road
Oxford **£300,000**

OPEN HOUSE. SATURDAY 12TH APRIL. PLEASE CALL FOR AN EARLY BOOKING TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AS DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGH A chain free, three bedroom semi detached property with two reception rooms and a downstairs cloakroom, off road parking and an enclosed rear garden.

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OXFORD **£170,000**

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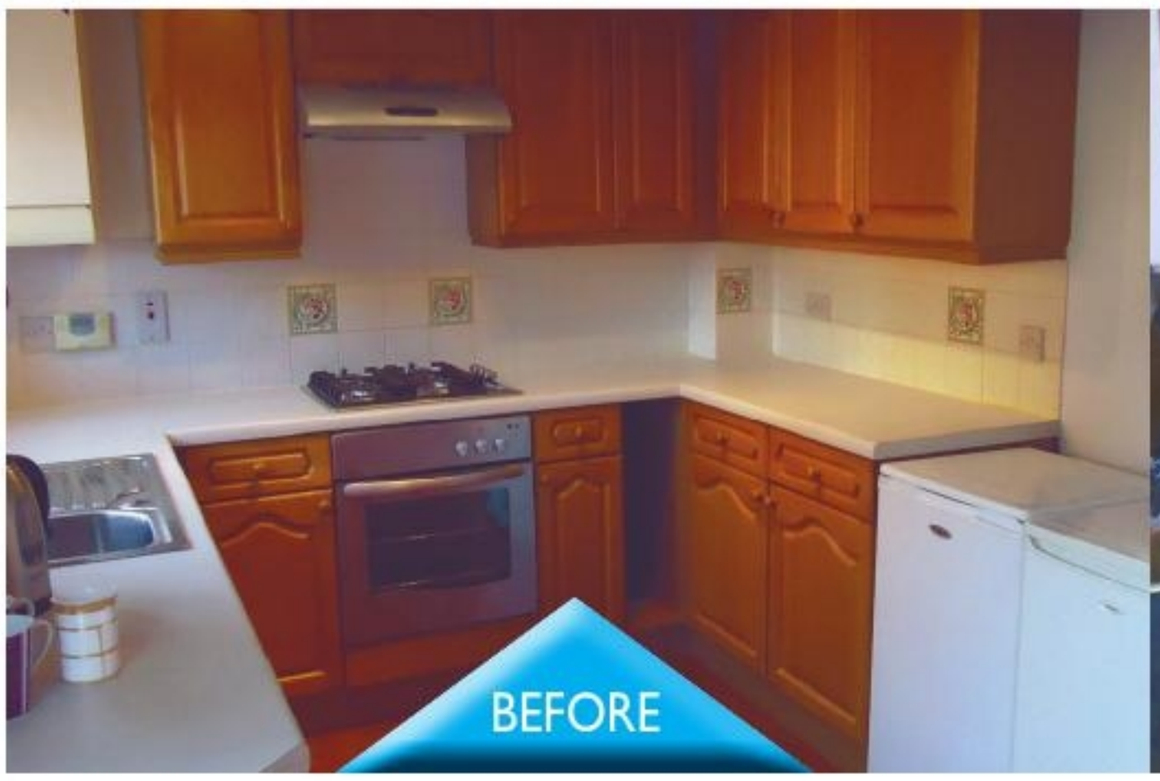

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WIN Extreme Stunt Show Tickets..!

WHETHER you're a fan of monster trucks, motorbikes, BMX or just general mayhem, the Extreme Stunt Show Live Arena at Old Common London Road RG21 4BY is the place to be and the date to be there is Wednesday April 23rd .

Check out the monster action where the trucks Extreme and Lil' Devil compete to prove they're the best car crushing monsters in Europe. 2013 was a very busy year for them. Performing at over 150 shows during the summer meant they were in need of some long overdue TLC. The Extreme workshop has been busy over the winter making sure the trucks are ready to keep up with the grueling workout the drivers are going to put them through. Both still pulling 1500 horsepower and car-crushing to the max, these machines are primed and ready for action.

Next up, the Extreme FMX lads who love to tear it up with their death defying stunts including the can can, cliffhanger, lazy boy, kiss of death, nac nac, and superman to name a few.

Prepare to be astounded as the Extreme BMX team, show you how it's done with excessive pedal power. Check out their bunny hops, barspins, 360s, tailwhips, flairs and of course the backflip.

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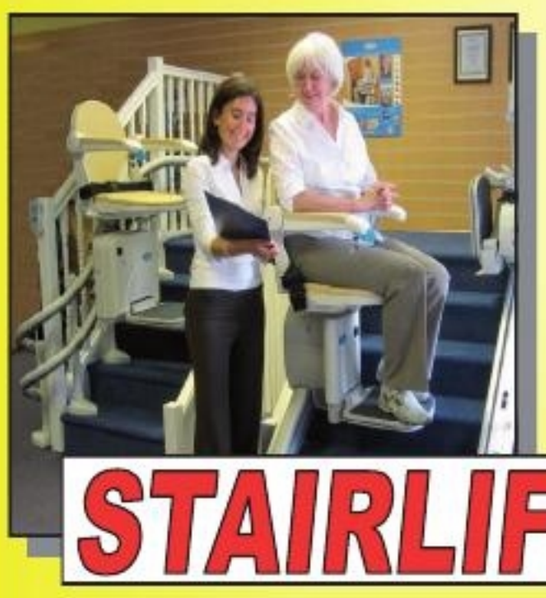

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Fiat's retro rag-top city car gets 'sporty'

FIAT'S re-interpretation of its iconic 1960s 500 model met huge acclaim when it launched in 2007. The 500C, launched in 2009, shares the chic retro looks of the hatch, but features a full length electrically retractable fabric roof.

The design is faithful to the rear-engined 1950s original, in that it retains the roof pillars and although not a true convertible, it's hard not to be impressed by this clever compromise.

FACTS at a glance

FIAT 500S CONVERTIBLE 0.8 TWINAIR 85HP
OTR PRICE: £15,760
Max Power: 84 bhp @5500 rpm
Max Torque: 145Nm @ 1900 rpm
Max Speed: 107mph
Acceleration: 0-62 in 11.0 seconds
Claimed MPG (combined) 70.6
CO2 emissions: (g/km) 95
Insurance Group 10

REVIEW: Fiat 500S Convertible
By **Philip Shoulder**
@writeonmotoring

This sportier 'S' trim is denoted by larger 16 inch alloy wheels, satin chrome trim along with the body coloured side skirts and spoiler. Inside there's a skilful blend of retro looks and modern functionality, with a sporty twist thanks to the chunky flat-bottomed steering wheel, red gear knob and embroidered logos on the bolstered sports seats.

Otherwise it's the usual 500 fair: key focal points being the large main dial, incorporating speedometer, rev counter, fuel, and temperature gauges. Heater and stereo controls are positioned high on the dash, within easy reach of the driver.

A good driving position is combined with comfortable supportive seats. Cabin is cosy but not cramped and there's enough headroom for six-footers front and rear. At 185 litres seats up and 520 litres seats down, the boot is well off class best and the aperture is a bit restricted.

Out of all the Fiat 500 engine options (a 68 bhp 1.2 litre and 94 bhp 1.3 litre diesel), this 0.9 litre two-cylinderTwinAir is without doubt the most intriguing. A combination of turbo charging, dedicated valve management and high combustion achieved from Fiat's MultiAir technology, means the diminutive 875cc engine pumps out a healthy 84 bhp at 5500 rpm and 145Nm at 2000rpm, to the tune of a distinctive off-beat thrum, which seems to really suit the car's cheeky character.

It certainly feels brisk, despite the modest performance figures (0-62 mph in 11 seconds and 107 mph top speed). And it has incredibly low CO2 emissions of just 95g/km, along with 70.6 mpg fuel economy (combined cycle), although expect real-world figures to be nearer the 45 mpg mark.

The 500S strikes an appealing balance of sportiness and comfort; bigger wheels, slightly firmer suspension and chunkier steering wheel all add up to make this 500 more engaging on a twisty B-road, but there isn't the crashy brittleness that afflicts the more hardcore Abarth variants.

For such a small car refinement levels are good at lower speeds, although some external noise does seep in through the soft-top. At the flick of a switch (up to speeds of 37mph) the 500S Convertible goes from city car to drop-top, adding another dimension of motoring pleasure, although some practicality and rear vision is lost.

Verdict:

Although not without its flaws, the 500S Convertible has personality and desirability in spades; as well it should for nearly £16,000. Where it scores is offering the duality of city car motoring, with the fun factor of a small convertible.

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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms, conditions and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Models shown: 2014 Sportage '1' 1.6 GDI 133bhp 6-speed manual @ £17,500 On The Road (OTR) excluding metallic paint at £510; Sorento 'KX-1' 2.2 CRDi 194bhp 6-speed manual 7 seat @ £24,700 including customer saving of £2,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £550 OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 30 June 2014. *4.9% APR available on Kia Conditional Sale and Kia Access on all Sportage and Sorento models. 10% minimum deposit required. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / Indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative.

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2010 10	Mitsubishi Lancer Ralliart Gsr 5dr HATCH Turbo 28000 Miles	£10,495
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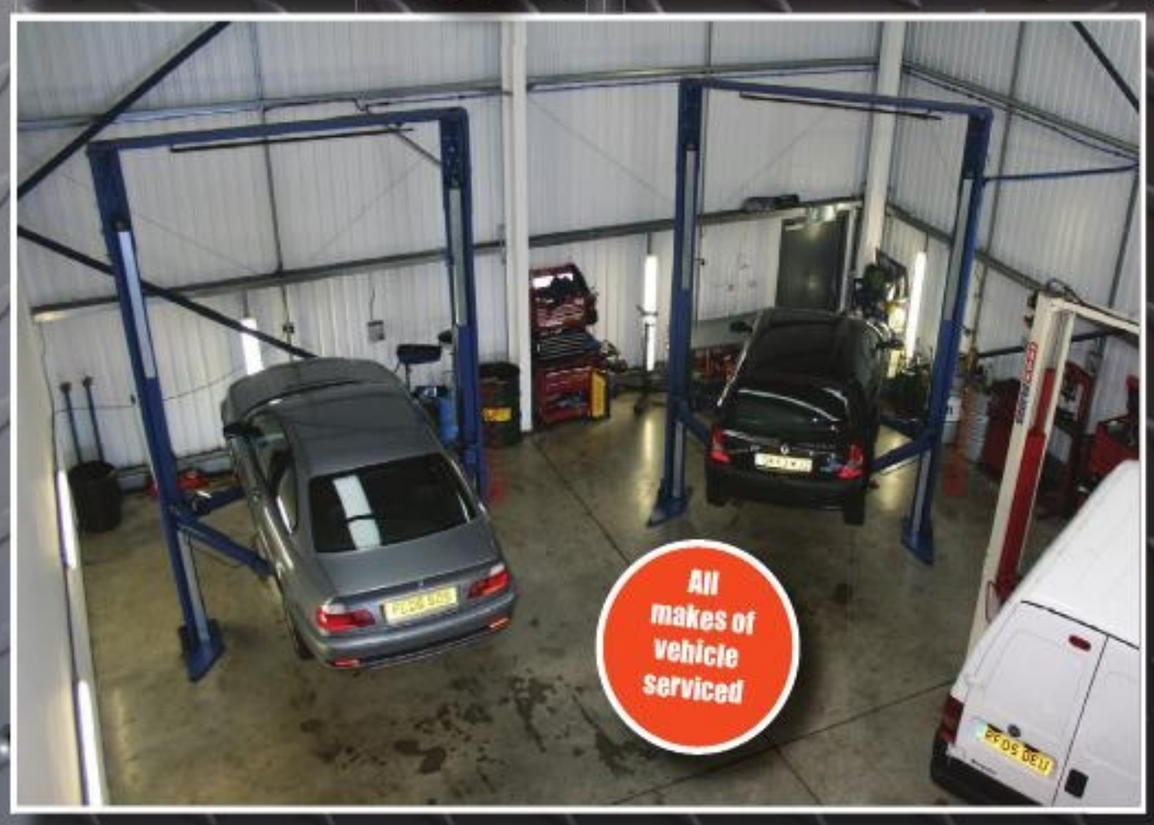

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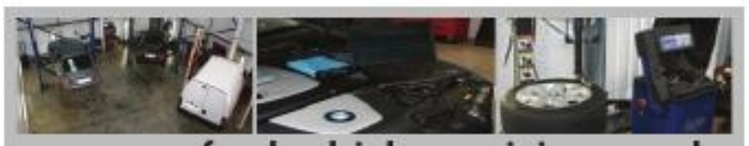

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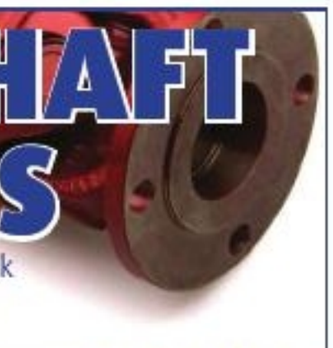

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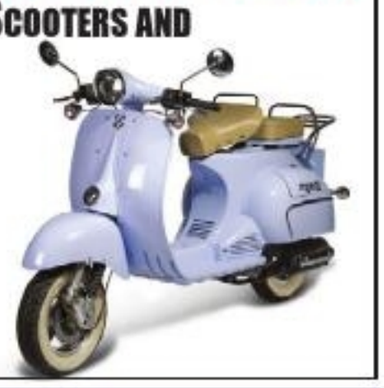

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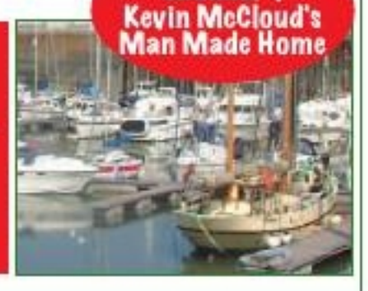

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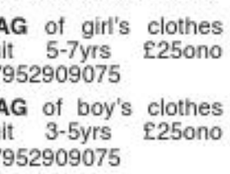

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LET'S STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

• *Gary Waddock looks on as Oxford United are beaten by Fleetwood Town (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

United drop out of play-off places

HEAD coach Gary Waddock is demanding a reaction from his players after Oxford United slipped out of the play-offs, following a 2-0 defeat to Fleetwood Town last Saturday.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

It is the first time this season that the U's have been out of the top seven, while a poor run of form has seen Oxford record only one win in 10.

David Ball and Antoni Sarcevic scored as the Cod Army closed in on the top three, condemning Waddock to a third successive defeat.

"It might be a relief for the players," Waddock said of dropping to eighth in the Sky Bet League Two table.

"We will look at it and go 'Wow, now we have to turn up, now we have to stand up and be counted', because the lads have been looking over their shoulder and wondering if we can stay in it.

"We are out of it now and we have to knuckle down and work hard to get ourselves back into it."

United have gone five games without scoring a goal, and sections of the crowd were unhappy with the selection of Deane Smalley ahead of top marksman James Constable last Saturday.

Smalley was replaced by Constable on 55 minutes, prompting ironic cheers as the striker, who has netted nine goals this season, left the pitch.

"You can't please everybody," said Waddock.

"If the performance isn't very good, supporters are entitled to their opinion, but we have to be mentally strong to deal with that.

"If Deano scores the winner he's the hero, so he will take all the plaudits, and we have to accept some times, when things are not going our way, we have to take the other side of it.

"But he's a good player, he works very hard for this football club and we are all right behind him."

Constable, who is only three goals behind the club record of 107, has started one game under Waddock; the 3-0 defeat to Southend on March 24.

Waddock added: "It's a case of he's got to do it on the training ground.

"I have to have a look at everybody in training, I have to look at players in games.

"Everyone will get an opportunity but they have to take it when they play, it's as simple as that."

Oxford United	0
Fleetwood Town	2

City extend unbeaten run and boost survival hopes

ADAM Learoyd and Tom Winters fired Oxford City to a vital 2-0 win over league leaders AFC Telford in the Skrill North on Tuesday evening.

City, who are on a five-match unbeaten run, are currently 19th in the table, four points above the relegation zone.

Mike Ford's men, who were second from bottom a few weeks ago, have enjoyed a dramatic turnaround in form, taking 11 points from the last five games.

City turn their attention to the Oxfordshire Senior Cup this evening as they welcome Hellenic Premier Division side Ardley United to Marsh Lane.

The victor will play Kidlington in the final, who knocked out Oxford United on penalties on Tuesday night.

U's women ready to go

OXFORD United may be one of the smaller names in the newly-expanded FA Women's Super League but captain Sahara Osborne-Ricketts admits few will approach the season with their level of confidence.

After winning their first ever treble – including the Southern Region Women's Football League – in 2012, Oxford stormed their way to the South West Combination League title last season at the first time of asking.

They host London Bees in their Super League opener on April 14 and Osborne-Ricketts (pictured) said: "The opening game is going to be massive, we know London Bees are a good side and it will be a competitive game and in pre-season that is what we've been working towards so we are just excited to get going now.

"It is a massive jump from where we were last season but we'll just take it game by game and look to compete in every game."

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